

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 3-21 and 23-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 21 were rejected. Claims 3-20 and 23-40 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms.

In this response, claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39 have been amended. Claims 1 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice.

Specifically, claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39 have been amended as independent claims including substantially all limitations of their base claims 1 and 21 respectively, leaving all claims allowable. While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims which were objected to.

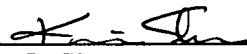
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: August 31, 2005



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